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02/13/2013 Minutes

Minutes of the ABAC meeting of February 13, 2013
 Approved March 11, 2013

Board members attending were Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Doug Greenfield and Phil Goff. Scott Smith was absent. Also present were Joey Glushko and Sam Milton.

The first portion of the meeting was a joint meeting with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

To begin the joint meeting, we all introduced ourselves.

The new signal at the Mill St./Bikeway intersection. There was discussion about the timing of the lights for bikes and pedestrians. A TAC member suggested that the lights were too distracting—especially at night. He thought that motorists' attention would be drawn to the lights at the expense of noticing the bicycle or pedestrian in the crossing. Jack said that, as he approached the intersection on foot, the sensor appeared to notice him twice. He wondered if the sensor was designed to notice bicycles at a further distance from the intersection than pedestrians.

Update: Pavement Marking Working Group:~The paving working group has now met three times to discuss opportunities for improving bicycling conditions in conjunction with repaving projects completed by the Town.~ Phil presented the proposed matrix and design guide to ABAC/TAC and described that it is intended to provide guidance on the width of three primary elements on the road—travel lanes, bicycle accommodation, and parking space.~ Existing guidelines don't give any contextual information.~ Phil suggested that our committees and the Town DPW use the guide to help vary the width of these lanes to account for local conditions (i.e. slope, road width, parking and/or traffic flow).~ Previously,~ABAC has designated the *de facto* Town Bike Network, which are the collector roads with enough traffic to merit bike accommodations with repaving or reconstruction projects.~ Phil told us that using the matrix and design guide will result in bicycle lanes on the designated roads if/when there is enough space.~ If there is not enough space, the guide features suggestions on the use of shared lane markings.~ If the road to be repaved is not part of the Town Bike Network, than in all likelihood no bike accommodations will be necessary in a repaving scenario.~ Phil then walked us through the design matrix explaining each item and its application and concluded with answering questions. Both ABAC and TAC are to get back to the Pavement Marking Working Group in the coming months so the matrix and design guide can be finalized.

Update: Bike Pavement Marking Program. The roadway paving working group has met about three times. Phil showed us the proposed matrix that they have devised to provide guidance on the width of three core elements on the road—travel lanes, bicycle accommodation, and parking space. Existing guidelines don't give any contextual information. Phil suggested that we might want to vary the width of these lanes to account for local conditions (i.e. slope, road width and/or traffic flow). ABAC has designated which roads in town have enough traffic to merit bike accommodations. Phil told us that the guidelines will result in bicycle lanes on the designated roads if there is enough space. If there is not enough space, some sort of shared lane marking will be used. If the road to be repaved has not been designated as high in traffic, than no bike accommodations are necessary. Phil walked us through the design matrix explaining each item and its application.

Update: CLAMP. Laura Wiener told us that the 25% design plan has been submitted to MassDOT and that the public hearing will be some time late in March. Ron asked to have his memory refreshed as to which plan was ultimately submitted. Laura answered that the final design includes bicycle lanes and full parking. The use of this plan will require that one travel lane will have to be narrowed to 10.5 feet. The plan will be posted on the Town website in the near future.

Discussion: Mass. Ave. Redevelopment Project comment letter. Laura reminded us that the second public hearing for this project will be the evening of Feb. 26th. This has necessitated pushing back the schedule one quarter of a year. We discussed the possibility of TAC and ABAC sending letters in support of the current design. Laura told us that the presentations will include the four-lane options proposed by the opponents of the current design. Phil suggested that TAC should present the benefits of the current plan and what we would lose by not using it. He suggested that everyone on these committees should attend the meeting and speak in support of their preferred plan. We then briefly discussed the importance of the method used to choose the speakers at the hearing. We also discussed the utility of using our mailing lists to encourage attendance.

This topic concluded the joint portion of the meeting.

*Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the December meeting were approved with amendments.

Reminder to review Conflict of Interest Law, Summary of changes; submit signed receipt to Joey Glushko by March 1, 2013. Joey told us that we have to visit the new site and take the course on the current law.

Recreational Trails Grant (RTG) Program. Joey sent us a copy of the current Bikeway map and asked for comments. We talked about how to keep the information on the map from obscuring the map itself. We discussed various ways of accessing information about amenities near the bike path, including printing the information on the map, QR codes or URLs.

ABAC Winter Social (Thurs., March 14, Arlington Center for the Arts, 7 PM). All the preparations for the Social are completed. ABAC members should be there at 6:30 in case any set up is necessary. Christopher and Stephan will provide light refreshments. Jack told us that the announcements have gone out and the event is posted on the Town website.

Spring outreach: Bike Safety Check (Linwood Circle area). Steve Quinn and Chad Gibson have committed to running this event. The date has not yet been set.

Bike-Arlington Tour 2013 Christopher spoke to the Medford Boat Club and we may start and end the tour there. We would like to have Scott Smith's input before finalizing the route.

ECOFest 2013 – Invitation to participate – Saturday, March 23, 2013. Joey thinks that the Bikeway is a good subject for this venue. The topic for this year is Arlington People, Places, and Spaces. Several people volunteered to run a table. We will distribute what literature we have, including the new police brochure, and sell Bikeway T-shirts.

Complete Streets. Phil and Joey explained the Complete Streets project. The project is an effort to make streets safe and hospitable to everyone as the streets are redesigned and repaved. We felt that ABAC should participate in this effort. Joey thought Walking in Arlington should also be invited to participate. She told us that the impetus for the project is a similar effort sponsored by the Commonwealth.

Other. Joey reminded us that we must submit an annual report. Christopher will write it and circulate it for approval by the Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.